

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 26-50 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Claims 26, 27 and 31-35 have been amended. Support for the amendments to Claim 26 is found, by way of non-limiting example, in the specification at page 2, lines 26-37 and original Claims 27, 28 and 34. The amendments to Claims 27 and 31-35 are formal in nature. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added and that no new issues have been raised requiring further search and/or consideration.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 26-32, 36-38 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Washizaki et al. (Published European Patent Application No. 0547327A1, hereinafter “Washizaki”); and Claims 33-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Washizaki in view of Tuor et al. (Published UK Patent Application GB2033947A, hereinafter “Tuor”).

Independent Claim 26 recites:

applying multiple bands of film on one face of the substrate using a film applicator unit, comprising at least one axis perpendicular to a direction of advancement and parallel to the plane of advancement and on which there are mounted multiple reels of film, being disposed in the film-coating station;

bringing, in the film coating station, a leader of the film of each of the reels to be applied to and held against one face of the substrate at a varying location on the substrate;

unwinding the reels of film being triggered with a view to the film being applied in a strip to the advancing substrate;

cutting the film at a varying location on the substrate; and

holding a new film leader to be ready to be applied at a varying location on the same substrate, or on a following substrate, wherein

a band width of each reel and its location on axes is chosen as a function of regions of the substrates which are to be covered by each film.

It is respectfully submitted that these features are neither disclosed by nor rendered obvious by Washizaki, Tuor or the combination thereof.

Washizaki describes in column 8, lines 19-23 “a film applying method in which stratified films 1B each having a length corresponding to that of an electrically insulating base plate 6 are applied to the sides of the plate by a film applying apparatus.” Washizaki further describes in column 8, lines 33-39 “three-layer stratified films 1, each consisting of a light-transmissible resin film, a photosensitive resin layer and a second light-transmissible resin film, and which feed the films 1B each consisting of the light-transmissible resin film and the photosensitive resin layer exposed on one side thereof, which is to be applied to the base plate 6.” Washizaki further describes in column 8, lines 50-59 “[t]he film 1 is unwound from the supply roller 2 to a film separation roller 3 along a guide roller 32 so that the roller 3 separates the film into the first light-transmissible film 1A as a protective film, and the two-layer stratified film 1B consisting of the second light-transmissible resin film and the photosensitive resin layer exposed on one side thereof, which is to be applied to the base plate 6.” That is, in Washizaki, it is clear that a single three-layer stratified film 1 from a single supply roller 2 is applied to each face of base plate 6. Therefore, Washizaki fails to describe applying multiple bands of film on one face of the substrate using a film applicator unit comprising multiple reels wherein a band width of each reel and its location on axis being chosen as a function of regions of the substrates which are to be covered by each film as recited in independent Claim 26.

Washizaki further states in column 4, lines 41-47:

to tentatively apply the leading edges of the films to the upper and lower sides of the base plate at the leading edges.
Thereafter, the films are completely applied to the base plate under pressure by pressure applying rollers so that each of the

films completely applied to the sides has a length corresponding to that of the base plate.

Washizaki further describes in column 10, lines 27-58:

The suction plate 56 attracts the leading edge of the film 1B to the plate as the film is fed from the supply roller 2, and then is moved toward the leading edge of the conveyed base plate 6 to tentatively apply the film to the leading edge of the base plate. . . . the fixed cutting member to cut the film to a prescribed Length corresponding to that of the base plate 6.

Finally, Washizaki states “Fig. 8 shows the films 1B completely applied to the upper and lower sides of the base plate 6” in column 14, lines 53-54. Thus, it is clear that Washizaki’s disclosure is limited to completely covering the base plate with the film.

Therefore, Washizaki fails to describe bringing, in the film coating station, a leader of the film of each of the reels to be applied to and held against one face of the substrate at a varying location on the substrate; unwinding the reels of film being triggered with a view to the film being applied to a strip of the advancing substrate; cutting the film at a varying location on the substrate; and holding a new film leader to be reading to be applied at a varying location on the same substrate, or on a following substrate, wherein a band width of each reel and its location on axes is chosen as a function of regions of the substrates which are to covered by each film as recited in Claims 26.

As pointed out above, Washizaki fails to describe or teach, suggest, motivate or render obvious on the basis of any other logical reason, the inclusion of multiple bands of film from multiple rollers or varying the location on the substrate so that the film is deposited on a part of one or both faces of a substrate. Washizaki is solely concerned with accurately positioning a single film over the entire surface o the substrate. The Office Action fails to point out where in Washizaki a teaching suggestion, motivation or other logical reason is provided to support the holding of obviousness. It is respectfully submitted there is none.

Tuor fails to correct the deficiencies of Washizaki described above because Tuor describes a single detachably adherent window cover part applied to a window of a road vehicle.

It is respectfully submitted that Claims 27-38 and 50 are patentable at least for the reasons argued above with respect to Claim 26 from which they depend. Withdrawn Claims 39-49 are dependent on independent Claim 26. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that Claims 39-49 be rejoined pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 821.04 upon allowance of independent Claim 26.

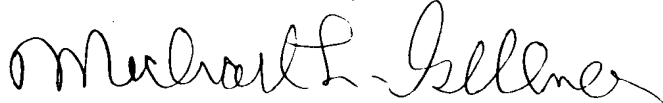
Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of Claims 26-38 and 50 be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that Claims 26-50 be found allowable.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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